

Message Text

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ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /032 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO USDOC WASHDC

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PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP ETRN EGEN KS

SUBJECT: COMPETITIVE FINANCING

REF: STATE 140003

1. EMBOFF ADVISED KOREAN AIR LINES (KAL) OF AUTHORIZATION OF EXIM BANK CREDIT (REFTEL).

2. KAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, C.K. CHO, REFERRED TO EXIM TERMS, 35 PERCENT LOAN AND 20 PERCENT GUARANTEE OF A TOTAL OF \$90 MILLION, AND SAID DOING BUSINESS ON THESE TERMS WAS LIKE TAKING A "COLD SHOWER". CHO FOR CONTRAST CITED FRENCH CREDIT TERMS FOR POSSIBLE KAL A-300 (AIRBUS) PURCHASE. FRENCH CREDIT OFFER WAS AT 7.25 PERCENT INTEREST WITH 12 YEARS TO PAY ON A LEASE/PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT.

3. KAL FLEET RENOVATION PLANS CALL FOR REPLACEMENT OF PRESENT MEDIUM RANGE AIRCRAFT (YS11S, 720S, 727S) WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS. CHO INDICATED THAT KAL IS INTERESTED IN A TWIN-ENGINE, WIDE-BODY JET. SELLING POINTS FOR A-300 ARE SEATING CAPACITY, SHORT LANDING REQUIREMENT, AND, IRONICALLY, FACT IT USES SAME ENGINE AS DC-10 PLANES KAL NOW GETTING FROM US.

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4. AS CHO POINTED OUT, FUTURE FOR US AIRCRAFT SALES

IN KOREA IS DIM IF EXIM FINANCING IS UNABLE TO COMPETE
WITH TERMS SUCH AS THOSE FRENCH OFFER.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

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